

Application No. 10/566,850
 Reply to Final Office Action dated September 30, 2009

Docket No.: 209546-104849

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-14, 18-19 and 22-23 are pending with claims 4-5, 8, 15, 20-21 being previously cancelled and claims 16-17 being provisionally withdrawn from consideration. By this paper, no claims have been amended, cancelled or added. Accordingly, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-14, 18-19 and 22-23 will remain pending.

I. The Claimed Invention

To expedite the Office's understanding of the claims, Applicant reproduces the following marked-up view of Figure 1, which was originally presented in the last paper prepared by the Applicant:

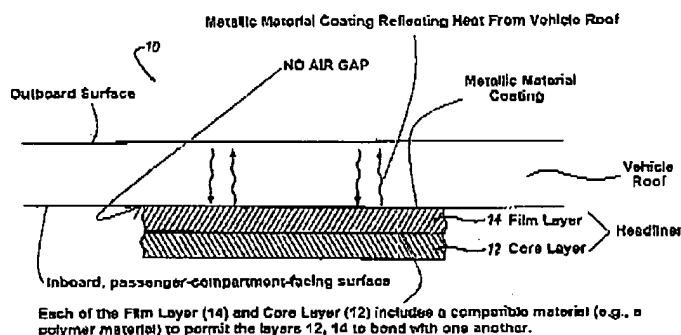


FIG. 1
 (Marked Up)

II. U.S. 4,068,034 to Segawa et al. ("Segawa") at col. 3, lines 17-39

In comparison to the claimed invention, Segawa teaches the following at col. 3, lines 17-39. Based upon the disclosure at col. 3, lines 17-39, Applicant produces a marked-up view of Segawa's Figure 2 as well as col. 3, lines 17-39 below for convenience.

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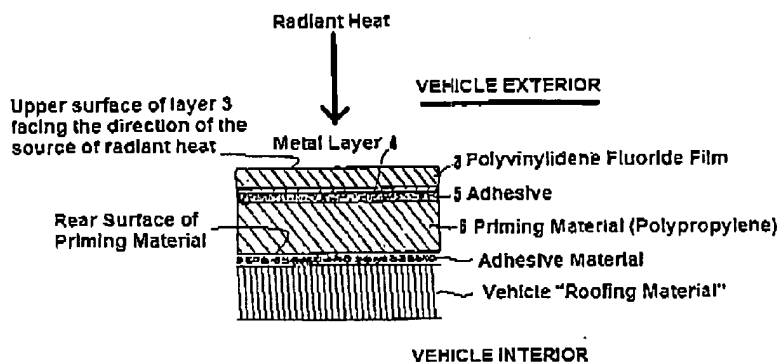


FIG. 2

(Marked-Up)

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Effective use of the heat-insulation material of the present invention is achieved simply by covering surfaces such as building roofs, exterior walls, outdoor oil tanks, refrigerators, vehicles, other structures and machinery which are exposed to radiant heat, with the polyvinylidene fluoride film surface thereof (the upper surface of the layer 3 in FIG. 2) facing the direction of the source of radiant heat. Specifically, this is effected simply by applying an adhesive or binding agent directly to the exposed surfaces of the articles and then bringing the rear surface (priming layer surface) of the heat-insulation material into contact with the applied layer of adhesive or binding agent or by first coating the exposed surfaces with, for example, an additional insulation material and subsequently adhering the heat-insulation material fast to the thus coated surface by use of an adhesive or binding agent. Where the heat-insulation material has a structure including the priming material adhered as illustrated in FIG. 2 the required secure adhesion of the heat-insulation material to the surface to be protected can be accomplished by use of nails or bolts, for example, instead of using an adhesive or binding agent. The heat-insulation material can also be fastened or nailed to the surfaces to be protected by means

III. Rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1-3 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4,068,034 to Segawa et al. ("Segawa").

B. Claims 18-19 and 22-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segawa in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0124668 to Ogawa ("Ogawa").

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C. Claims 9-14 and 18-19 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segawa in view of Ogawa and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,851,283 to Holtrop ("Holtrop").

In light of the following remarks, the above rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding Independent Claims 1, 9 and 18

At page 5 of the present Action, the Office pointed to Segawa's teachings at col. 3, lines 24-28 in order to show support for the attachment of Segawa's material to a base structure. Applicant respectfully submits that Segawa's material is not and may not function as an *interior trim panel* as required by the current claims. Rather, per col. 3, lines 24-39, Segawa's material is an *exterior* component.

Referring to section II of this paper, the marked-up view of Segawa's Figure 2 *clearly shows* that Segawa's material is not an interior panel such that it is exposed to a vehicle's interior / passenger compartment area, but, rather, is orientated at a vehicle's exterior. Support for Applicant's position comes from the following of Segawa's specification at col. 3, lines 17-39:

- the upper surface of the layer 3 in FIG. 2 (faces) the direction of the source of radiant heat; and
- applying adhesive binding agent directly to the exposed surfaces of the articles and then bringing the rear surface (priming layer surface) of the heat insulation material into contact with the applied layer of adhesive.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that none of Segawa, Ogawa and Holtrop when taken individually or in any permissible combination teaches, suggests or discloses the claimed invention. As stated above in sections II-III of this paper, the base reference, Segawa, discloses an *exterior* component. Conversely, the recited aim of the present invention is to provide an interior (non-base structure) trim component that is located within a passenger compartment area such that no air gap is located between the interior component and a vehicle roof (see section I of this paper).

Claims 2-3 and 6-7 depend from independent claim 1, claims 10-14 and 16-17 depend from independent claim 9 and claims 19 and 22-23 depend from independent claim 18 and each include patentably-distinct limitations. For at least the above remarks, the rejections to claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-

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14, 16-19 and 22-23 should be withdrawn. Allowance of claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-14, 16-19 and 22-23 is requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3145, under Order No. 209546-104849 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 11/30/2009

Respectfully submitted,

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